

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 OCTOBER 2010

REPORT BY: LICENSING MANAGER

REPORT AUTHOR: NICKII HUMPHREYS

Annual Review of Licensing Fees

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider a review of the non-statutory fees charged for licences/registrations which are administered by the Licensing Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) That the proposed table of licensing fees be approved and implemented with immediate effect; and**
- 2) That the City Solicitor be given authority to advertise, (where appropriate), such fees and charges that are subject to any formal public statutory consultation.**

1.0 Background Information

It has always been the policy of the Committee to recover, where possible, the cost of undertaking the various licensing functions although for some licences/permits, no fee is payable or the licensing fees are controlled centrally by the Government. In these cases, the Council cannot vary the fees to take into account local administrative on-costs.

When last considering a review of fees charged in respect of hackney carriage and private hire licensing on 5 November 2008, The Licensing Committee resolved that these fees are to be reviewed on an annual basis to take into account inflationary and any other increased costs (Minute No. 15/08 refers).

As per this decision, this report sets out proposals to increase the non-statutory fees payable for various types of licences/registrations by 3% which represents an increase equitable to the current rate of inflation.

This report also sets out proposed increases to other licence fees which have not incurred an increase in charges for some considerable period of time.

There is also a recommendation to decrease the renewal fee payable in respect of the renewal of sex establishment licences and to adopt new fees in relation to the variation and transfer of such licences as well as the giving of and issuing replacement notices relating to Temporary Use Notices under the Gambling Act 2005.

The proposed increase to licence fees in line with the current rate of inflation is necessary in order to cover the on-costs for employees, supplies and services, agency and other contracted services so that the licensing budget meets the cash limit requirement as set down in the Council's budget and will also ensure that full cost recovery is achieved, where possible, in relation to the cost of administration and enforcement of the various licensing functions.

2.0 Table of Proposed New Fees

Licence Type:	Existing Fee: £	Proposed Fee: £
Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licences		
Private Hire Operators:		
Grant or renewal	345.00	355.00*
Private Hire Vehicles:		
Grant or renewal	138.00	142.00*
Renewal – Extension	225.00	232.00*
Grant or renewal – LPG	127.00	131.00*
Grant – January only	69.00	71.00*
Car-to-car transfer fee	115.00	118.00
Car-to-car transfer – Admin fee	23.00	24.00
Temporary car-to-car transfer fee	58.00	60.00
Vehicle re-test fee	46.00	47.00
Private Hire Drivers:		
Grant or renewal	64.00	66.00
Replacement badge	12.00	12.00
Hackney Carriage Vehicles:		
Grant or renewal	144.00	148.00*
Renewal – Extension	252.00	260.00*
Grant or renewal – LPG	132.00	136.00*
Car-to-car transfer fee	120.00	124.00
Car-to-car transfer – Admin fee	24.00	25.00
Temporary car-to-car transfer fee	60.00	62.00
Vehicle re-test fee	48.00	49.00
Hackney Carriage Drivers:		
Grant or renewal	64.00	66.00
Replacement badge	12.00	12.00
* Denotes that the proposed fee is subject to formal statutory consultation		
Street Trading Consents:		
Grant or renewal	1500.00	1545.00
Motor Salvage Operator Registration:		
Grant or renewal	70.00	72.00

Licence Type:	Existing Fee: £	Proposed Fee: £
Sex Establishment Licences:		
Grant	12000.00	12000.00
Renewal	8000.00	4000.00
Variation	NIL	1000.00
Transfer	NIL	500.00
Amenities on the Highway Permits:		
Goods on the Highway:		
Grant	185.00	191.00
Renewal	105.00	108.00
Variation	NIL	50.00
Tables and chairs on the Highway:		
Initial application fee	80.00	82.00
Additional fee and subsequent renewal fee:		
Highway area up to 5 m2	150.00	155.00
Highway area between 5 m2 and 10 m2	300.00	310.00
Highway area between 10 m2 and 15 m2	450.00	464.00
Highway area between 15 m2 and 20 m2	600.00	618.00
Highway area greater than 20 m2	750.00	773.00
Gambling Act 2005 – Temporary Use Notices:		
Giving of a Temporary Use Notice	NIL	500.00
Replacement Notice	NIL	£25.00

3.0 Conclusion

The proposed fee increases reflect a reasonable and modest percentage increase in line with the current inflation rate and will ensure that the cost of the provision of the statutory licensing function in respect of these types of licences/permits is recovered from the fees payable by licence holders and not subsidised by the council tax payer

THERE ARE NO BACKGROUND PAPERS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS REPORT.



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Licensing Manager